



July 4th fun
See Page 2B

The Fort Huachuca Scout



Vol. 46, NO. 27 Published in the interest of Fort Huachuca personnel and their families July 6, 2000

Scout reports

e-mail:
thescout@huachuca-emh1.army.mil
website:
huachuca-www.army.mil/PAO/index.htm

Free ride to Irwin Pool

The Sierra Vista Department of Parks and Leisure began Wednesday providing free transportation from the Oscar Yrun Community Center and Veterans' Memorial Park to Irwin Pool, Tuesday through Friday, 1-5 p.m. until Aug. 16. For information, call 458-7922.

Chaplains host bake sale

The Fort Huachuca chaplains are sponsoring a Christmas in July Bake Sale in support of the Christmas Giving Tree Program, today and Friday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Main PX Lobby. Both bakers and workers are needed. To volunteer, call 459-8213, 417-0562 or Jo Moore at the Main Post Chapel, 533-4748 or 533-5559.

Blood drive set

A blood drive will be held 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Friday at Building 53301 (across the street from Greely Hall, off Arizona Street).

There is a national shortage. Nine out of 36 regions are in need of blood. Blood needs are constant, but at this time there is a critical shortage in O+, A+ and A-. It is summer and we are facing an increasing need for blood. You can help enormously by donating.

Every donor will be receiving a surprise gift. To make an appointment or for information, call Katharina Criscuolo at 538-3120. Appointments are appreciated, but walk-ins will not be turned away.

Green to Gold briefing

Interested in becoming an officer? Attend the next "Green to Gold" Briefing on Friday, 11 a.m.-noon at the Post Education Center, Building 52104.

DoD announces slight child care fee hike

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Fees at military child care facilities will increase by about \$1 to \$2 more per child each week for the 2000-2001 school year, DoD officials announced June 21.

The fees keep pace with estimates of inflation. DoD family policy officials review and update child care fees annually.

Depending on their total family income, DoD families will pay between \$40 and \$116 per child per week during the upcoming school year. The fee represents about half the cost of child care, the remainder is paid with appropriated funds from Congress.

How much parents pay for military child care is based on the family's total income. This includes all earned income — wages, salaries, tips, long-term disability benefits and voluntary salary deferrals. It also includes service members' combat pay, housing and subsistence allowances, and the value of meals and lodging furnished in-kind to military personnel residing on military installations.

Installation commanders set fees within DoD ranges. This gives the commander flexibility to adjust fees based on the cost of living in the local area. Commanders also have the authority to use an optional high-cost fee range in areas where it is necessary to pay child care providers higher wages to compete in the local labor market.

Installation child development centers may begin charging the increased fees anytime between Aug. 1 and October 1.

Commanders may offer a 20 percent fee discount for each additional child from the same family. Hardship waivers may be granted for families in unique financial circumstances.



Photo by Kelly Figula

Building better child care

Zachary Russ enjoys a day at Fort Huachuca's new Family Child Care hourly "group home." See Page 8.

Law change affects some surviving spouses

Army Families

Surviving spouses of Reservists who were members before Oct. 1, 1978 and would have been eligible for retired pay at age 60, if they hadn't died before reaching that age, have been added to those eligible for Annuities for Certain Military Surviving Spouses.

Section 644 of the Fiscal Year 1998 Department of Defense Authorization Act created a benefit for so-called "forgotten widows."

"Forgotten widows" was the category of surviving spouses who were previously ineligible for a survivor annuity because their retirement-qualified spouses died before having the opportunity to enroll them in either the Survivor Benefit Plan, created in 1972, or the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan, created in 1978.

Under the FY 2000 DoD Authorization Act, the criteria for ACMSS qualification now is that the deceased Reserve member:

- must have completed at least 20 qualifying years of service toward retirement, and
- must have been married to the applicant on date of death, and
- must have died before Oct. 1, 1978.

Criteria for regular retiree's surviving spouses remains "must have died before March 21, 1974."

The Army has notified applicants disapproved under previous law of this change. They must reapply and provide supporting documents. Retirement Services Officers can be contacted for applications and assistance.

A listing of RSOs can be found on the Army Retirement Services homepage at <http://www.odcsper.sarmy.mil/retire/retire1.asp>.

Search for missing soldier continues

By Tanja M. Linton
Media Relations Officer

Post and Santa Cruz county officials continue search efforts for a soldier reported missing at Lake Patagonia over the weekend.

Pfc. John S. Johnston of Company E, 309th Military Intelligence Battalion was reported missing to park rangers early Saturday morning by three friends who had joined him on a camping trip. Park rangers notified Santa Cruz county sheriff's department and a search was initiated.

An investigation into Johnston's disappearance is ongoing.

The Scout's Chaplain

Post welcomes new installation chaplain

Chapel release

The military and religious ministry leaders of Fort Huachuca invite the Fort Huachuca and Sierra Vista community to attend the “Passing of the Stole” Ceremony for Chap. (Col.) Juan Loya, the incoming Installation Chaplain.

This ceremony will be conducted July 14, at 3:30 p.m. in the Main Post Chapel.

Maj. Gen. John D. Thomas, commanding general, U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca will lead the ceremony with other commanders, command representatives and Unit Ministry Teams. Chap. (Col.) John Barbee, Army Signal Command, will guide our thinking about eternal matters.

The Stole Ceremony represents this nation’s Army endowing Loya with authority and responsibility to provide and perform post-wide religious ministry. The

Pastoral Stole represents Loya’s ministry to all Department of Defense personnel, throughout all phases of international conflict.

Receiving the Stole, the installation chaplain is charged by the installation commander to provide spiritual and technical leadership for the post-wide “free exercise of religion,” one of Americans’ 10 most-fundamental rights secured in the Constitution.

An informal reception in the Chapel Fellowship Hall, will be hosted by the various congregations and ministry teams across the installation, immediately following the Stole Ceremony.

Loya replaces the former Installation Chaplain, Col. Thomas Decker, who recently became Senior Chaplain for Madigan Army Hospital, near Fort Lewis, Wash.

CWFC sponsors civilian events

CWFC release

The Civilian Welfare Funds Committee supports official and non-official functions for the federal civilian workers of Fort Huachuca.

Among the many events sponsored in the past have been movies, plays, ballets, concerts and mini tours. CWFC helps to support official organizational picnics and Christmas parties. This year CWFC has allotted \$10 per civilian for the year for official functions.

Contact any of the CWFC members below to find out about upcoming sponsored events.

- Judy Markham, DFAS, 533-2902
- April Rigg, DOIM, 533-7272
- Colleen Figula, Garrison Headquarters, 533-1562
- Lettichia Mealy, MEDDAC, 533-0924
- Marie Chester, MEDDAC, 533-9035
- Margaret Curry, CSLA, 538-8169
- Beth Manuel, Operational Test Command, 538-8808
- Suzanne Ollano-Mayer, ASC G3, 538-7933
- Sharolyn Scarborough, ISEC, 538-3075
- Robert Malone, EPG, 538-7433

CWFC sponsored events for the near future are:

July 15: Rocky & Bullwinkle movie at Cinemark, tickets are \$3 (includes movie, small drink & popcorn). Estimated time: 9:30 a.m., POC: Any CWFC Rep.

Aug. 12: Nutty Professor II at Uptown Theater, tickets are \$2 (includes movie, small drink & popcorn). Time: 9:30 a.m., POC: Any CWFC Rep.

Commentary — No compassion or compassion enough?

By Sgt. Cullen James
Scout Staff

Does the Army have no compassion for depression? I pose this question to everyone in our audience because I’m not sure.

I like to think the Army has compassion — when needed and deserved — for people who are truly suffering. I like to think that I, or any soldier I knew or supervised would receive quality help and understanding from the Army.

Friends — soldiers — and some of their family members I’ve known have received treatment for depression. There seemed to be a good degree of sympathy for their plight. If not sympathy then empathy. The difference I’ve seen between soldiers who get help and soldiers who just walk around complaining is that the soldiers who are helped ask for help. They get diagnosed.

Sure, a person can walk around moping all the time talking about how they’re depressed and can’t do something, or how the world is out to get them. But if they don’t seek medical attention, we can’t do much for them. A person, especially if they’re depressed, may lack the insight to seek help themselves, however. That’s when it’s the supervisor’s job to recommend they seek help.

Being depressed is never a reason to shirk responsibility though. Responsibility is more than completing a mission or fulfilling an obligation — it’s letting people know when you can’t complete a mission or fulfill an

obligation. If you’re too depressed to do something, let someone know.

I’ve seen some of this recently. I think about it because at first you tend to feel a little guilty if a soldier isn’t living up to his or her potential when he or she is complaining of depression. But after a little thought, you should realize soldiers in this position may not be doing much to help themselves. If they’re not seeking help, there’s little you can do to help except suggest they visit their clinic.

According to Maj. Brett Fouss, Raymond W. Bliss Army Health Center chief of Psychiatry, the mental health facilities at the clinic are available and soldiers need only use them. There are basically three ways in which a soldier can receive care from the clinic, Fouss explained:

1. They can refer themselves and make their own appointment.
2. A supervisor can recommend they make an appointment.
3. A commander can refer the soldier to the clinic.

Command referral, Fouss said, most often happens in emergency situations, “Suicidal or homicidal tendencies,” he explained. “But a commander can refer a soldier in non-emergent situations if they feel the soldier needs care.”

Also, if a soldier is already facing punitive action, the mental health clinic can be of little help. “We’re not here for excuses,” Fouss said. “All chapters requiring

mental health review are reviewed by me, but only a handful — out of the hundreds I see — did I feel the soldier was truly suffering.”

Even in cases where Fouss sees legitimate signs of depression, he can only make recommendations to commanders. Those recommendations may vary from going easy on a soldier to advising chapter, Fouss said. The ultimate decision on any pending action is left up to the commander.

The best advice Fouss can give is to seek care as early as possible. Whether people identify themselves or a supervisor recommends them to care, it’s best when they get care early. By the time a soldier is facing action, there’s little mental health can do but give advice.

“If we see a soldier [early enough] we can treat them in a variety of ways,” Fouss said. “If they are going to be chaptered, I sometimes recommend they continue to seek counseling in the civilian world. Most cases just because they’re getting out of the Army doesn’t mean they don’t still need help.”

So, with research and discussion, I’ve come to believe the Army does have compassion for depression. It has systems in place; they just need to be used.

Fouss mentioned that the problem of people not seeking help isn’t just an Army problem, it’s a worldwide problem. I believe that is true, but although the Army may not be perfect in catching problems it, at least, has systems and people in place to help each other out.

The Fort Huachuca Scout®

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of *The Fort Huachuca Scout* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca.

It is published weekly, except Christmas and New Years, using desktop publishing by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca, Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613-6000. Printed circulation: 8,200.

All editorial content of *The Fort Huachuca Scout* is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the PAO.

The Fort Huachuca Scout is printed by Five Star Publishing, Ltd., 1835 Paseo San Luis, Sierra Vista, AZ, 85635, a private firm in no way connected with DA, under exclusive written contract with the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca. The civilian printer is responsible for all advertising.

Editorial material for publication should be submitted to Commander, USAIC&FH, ATTN: ATZS-PA (*The Fort Huachuca Scout*), Fort Huachuca, AZ, 85613-6000. The PAO reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or pa-

tron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or Five Star Publishing, Ltd., of the products or services advertised.

Copies of *The Fort Huachuca Scout* are available to members of the commander’s internal audience for a \$2.50 per month postage and handling fee upon approval of the PAO. Periodical postage paid at Sierra Vista, Ariz., and additional mailing offices. USPS 684-730. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Five Star Publishing, P.O. Box 1119, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636.

To submit stories or inquiries, call (520) 533-1987,

DSN 821-1987 or fax (520) 533-1280.

For advertising, call (520) 458-3340 or fax (520) 458-9338.

Command Staff

Publisher/Commanding General.....MG John D. Thomas, Jr.
Garrison Commander.....COL Michael Boardman
Public Affairs Officer.....MAJ Daniel T. Williams
Command Information ChiefStan Williamson
NCOIC.....SFC LaToya E. Sizer

Editorial Staff

Managing EditorAngela Moncur
News EditorSGT Cullen James
Printer's Staff
Co-owners.....Rebecca Ramsey & Mark L. Evans

Kudos Korrer

NCO of the Month, Quarter

Sgt. Jeremy B. Davenport is the June Noncommissioned Officer of the Month and the Second Quarter.

Davenport, who has been at Fort Huachuca since April 1999, is assigned to the Directorate of Installation Support special repair activity for the military intelligence school house.

Davenport has been in the Army for four years, beginning with basic training at Fort Leonardwood, Mo. He has received the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, Army Commendation Medal, two Army Achievement Medals and a Good Conduct Medal.

He is airborne qualified and has attended the Primary Leadership Development Course.

The Jonesboro, Tenn., native and Cochise College graduate enjoys weightlifting and playing the guitar.

He plans on becoming a staff sergeant before he turns 23 in November.

Soldier of the Month, Quarter

Spc. Jose L. Rodriguez is the June Soldier of the Month and the Second Quarter.

Rodriguez, who has been at Fort Huachuca since June 1999, is the noncommissioned officer in charge of the radio section of Intelligence, Electronic Warfare, where his duties include radio communications security repair.

Rodriguez has been in the service for almost two years, including basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. and AIT at Fort Gordon, Ga. He received the Army Achievement Medal.

The Caguas, Puerto Rico native and his wife, Cynthia, live at Fort Huachuca and enjoy going to church.

He plans on becoming a senior NCO.

Bloodhound Award winners

Company A, 309th Military Intelligence Battalion was recognized by Maj. Gen. John D. Thomas Jr., commanding general, U.S. Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca, as the winner of June’s Bloodhound Award for large units (over 150 members). Members of A/309th donated 83 pints of blood.

Company D, 309th MI Bn., took first place for medium units (50-149 members) by donating 64 pints of blood.

For small units (up to 49 members), the Joint Interoperability Test Command secured first place by donating 34 pints of blood.

Child Development Associate

Fort Huachuca Family Child Care is pleased to announce that Mary Porter has been recognized by the Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition in Washington D.C. for her exemplary care.

Being awarded a Child Development Associate from this organization is a significant accomplishment in the field of early childhood education. Porter has served the soldiers and family members of Fort Huachuca in the capacity of a FCC Provider for over 4 years.

She is currently pursuing an associate’s degree in early childhood education with Central Arizona College. Porter is the wife of Staff Sgt. Glen E Porter, Company E, 305th Military Intelligence Battalion.

Fair Debt Collection Practices Act

Legal protections against debt collectors for average soldier

By 1st Lt. Robert A. Fellrath
Legal Assistance Office

Many soldiers today face debts from a variety of different activities, such as buying a car or motorcycle, buying a house, or buying a computer. Depending on the situation, some soldiers haven’t been able to pay these debts on time, and the debts are turned over to a collection agency. When that happens, soldiers are entitled to certain protections by federal law.

Congress passed the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act in order to ensure that debt collectors acted reasonably and did not abuse the rights of debtors. Many debt collectors in the past, and even some today, used some very questionable and dishonorable means to collect the debts.

The act is designed to prevent that, but it covers only certain debts and only certain debt collectors. The debt must have come from a personal or family activity (such as buying a car or going to the hospital) and not from a business activity. The person or agency collecting the debt must be collecting a debt that is owed to someone else.

This definition usually applies to collection agencies, credit bureaus, and certain lawyers who are collecting debts owed to their clients. This definition does not include finance companies (such as mortgage companies or auto loan companies), businesses and lawyers that are collecting debts owed directly to them (rather than to someone else), and certain other companies.

The act covers a wide range of activities that debt collectors traditionally engage in. It provides a list of protections for debtors and rules that debt collectors must follow.

- When contacting a debtor for the first time, either by mail or by phone, a debt collector must:
- inform the debtor that he or she has the right to see what the original debt is from and for how much, and
 - inform the debtor that the person contacting them is a debt collector and warn the debtor that anything they say might be used to help them collect that debt.
- A debt collector can never, regardless of whether it is the first contact with the debtor or any later contact:
- claim a larger amount of money is owed or try to add on fees to the debt;
 - threaten to put a garnishment on the debtor’s pay or a lien on their property without saying that they need to get a court order first;

- claim that the debtor has committed a crime or that they will spend time in jail for the debt;
- claim to be working for the government or the court;
- use letterheads or forms that make it seem like they are a government or court agency;
- claim to be a lawyer, unless they are actually a lawyer;
- threaten a lawsuit against the debtor, unless they have the authority and intent to do so;
- swear at or use other obscene or threatening language against the debtor;
- call before 0800 or after 2100;
- call repeatedly or let the phone keep ringing simply to upset the debtor;
- lie about who they are or why they are calling; or
- call the debtor at work if they have reason to know that the debtor’s employer does not allow personal contacts during work hours.

If the debtor gets a lawyer to handle the situation, the debt collector cannot call the debtor any longer. If the debtor informs the debt collector in writing that he or she will not pay the debt, the debt collector cannot call the debtor any longer, except to say that they are either dropping the matter or they are taking legal action.

A debt collector can contact a third party if they are trying to locate the debtor. However, they cannot say that they are collecting a debt. They do not have to say who their employer is unless directly asked. They may only contact a third party once, unless they believe the person is lying to them.

If you believe that a debt collector may have violated the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, please contact the Legal Assistance Office for help. Please remember that not all debts and not all debt collectors are covered by the Act.

(Editor’s note: The above article is a synopsis of the most common and relevant provisions in the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. This overview is intended to provide general information, and is not intended to be relied upon as a substitute for legal or financial advice. As always, consult with an attorney for advice on your particular circumstances! Active duty soldiers, their dependents, and other eligible ID card holders can make appointments with an attorney by calling Fort Huachuca’s Legal Assistance Office at 533-2009. Legal advice cannot be given over the phone.)

VA secretary backs GI Bill increase

VA release

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Veterans Affairs Togo D. West Jr. praised an administration proposal for a 25-percent increase in Montgomery GI Bill educational assistance for veterans and active-duty military personnel. If approved by Congress, it would be the largest single benefits hike in the program’s 16-year history.

“This administration continues to show leadership on veterans’ issues,” said Secretary West. “This proposal would nearly double Montgomery GI Bill benefits from their level in 1993 when President Clinton took office.”

The Clinton-Gore proposal would permit veterans to use their Montgomery GI Bill benefits for certain licensing and certification. The plan also provides the same percentage increase in education benefits for survivors and dependents.

The administration plan, unveiled by Vice President Gore, would increase payments under the Mont-

gomery GI Bill educational assistance program from \$536 to \$670 monthly. The higher rates would take effect October 1.

“By having the increase take effect immediately, instead of phasing in over several years, participating veterans will get help sooner,” Secretary West said.

The increase would narrow the gap that has developed between Montgomery GI Bill benefits and the cost of higher education. In 1985, the \$300 monthly benefit covered 70 percent of the average college tuition. The current rate of \$536 only pays 58 percent of the average tuition.

Under the Montgomery GI Bill, active-duty participants have a \$100 monthly deduction from their paychecks for their first 12 months in uniform.

“Since 1944, the GI Bill has eased the transition of millions of military personnel back to the private sector, where they became the backbone of our economy,” Secretary West said. “Improving the Montgomery GI Bill is an investment in the future.”

DIS welcomes new director

DIS release

John Ruble assumed the position of Director of Installation Support on June 5. He comes to the DIS from Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Ill. where he served as the Director of Public Works at Rock Island Arsenal since 1990.

Prior to that, he was the Chief of the Planning and Inspection Division as a construction engineer and a mechanical engineer in the DPW at Rock Island. His background and experience will provide the DIS team solid continuing leadership with a new perspective.

Ruble was born in Hammond, Ind. and raised in Calumet City, Ill. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering technology from Purdue University in 1971.

Currently he is working on his master's degree in business administration. He has received many prestigious awards throughout his career, including the Army Superior Civilian Service award, AMCCOM award for exceptional customer service and enhancing the quality of life for the installations soldiers and employees, Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service,

the 1992 AMC DPW Executive of the Year Award to name a few.

He is looking forward to becoming a part of the Fort Huachuca team, meeting and working with the organizations on the installation and in the Sierra Vista area. Ruble believes in providing excellent customer service while accomplishing the mission.

"I have heard a lot of great things about Fort Huachuca, of course not only about the weather, but also about its great heritage and the people on the installation and in the community. I am excited to be here and look forward to working with everyone," Ruble said.

Ruble and his wife Sheila have two children, a son 21 who is attending the University of Illinois and will be a senior this year as well as a daughter, 17 who is currently a senior in high school.



Courtesy photo

John Ruble

Quarters require exterior maintenance

Housing release

Well, it is official — the rains have come a little early to Fort Huachuca and as expected the grass has started growing by leaps and bounds.

As usual this means more time spent in yards mowing grass, edging sidewalks and driveways as well as trimming bushes and shrubs. The maintenance of the exterior of your quarters is a requirement for your continued residence on post.

The attention required in your yard is not limited to grass cutting and edging. Parking vehicles on lawns, seeded areas or yards is not authorized. Even if your yard does not have grass, you cannot park a vehicle except in carports, driveways or where allowed on streets. Yards should be policed for trash, debris and general clutter.

Many residents on Fort Huachuca have received citations for not complying with the yard requirements. As a policy, the Housing Division writes the first citation as a reminder that certain standards must be met.

If additional citations are received, the Housing Division notifies the soldier's chain of command for compliance. This is not the approach that either the Housing Office or the command wants to take.

As a National Historic Landmark, Fort Huachuca receives hundreds of visitors each month and their first impression of our post is the care given to the exterior of our quarters.

Do your part in leaving our guests with the right impression; Fort Huachuca is a great place is to live and work.

Commander's Hotline

Call

Recently, I was told by housing that I couldn't park on the grass in the quarters areas under any circumstances. Well, ignoring the fact that I don't have any grass, for a long while I didn't park on my "lawn."

Now of course I can't blame housing for these one car carports that are only wide enough for one car. Meaning, that if you have two cars (as do a lot of the people living on post) you can either park behind your other car (so you can play musical cars when you want to use one or the other) or in the middle of one of the "streets" between real streets, and be in the way of everyone.

Sure, you don't want to mess your lawn up IF you have one. But come on, grass? So what? I know this letter is on a subject that's not very important, but that's my point! For those quarters not in a real housing area (one with parking on the street and curbs) there is grass and you shouldn't drive over the curbs and onto the grass. But in areas where there are just service roads between the quarters...

I myself only started parking on my "lawn" after I saw everyone else doing it for months. Obviously, it's not a big issue, or at least it wasn't. Come on, if we want to save water here (Hello, it's the desert!) we should outlaw the watering of lawns. In fact, my suggestion is that we pave all lawn areas. Make everything a parking lot. If you want green, paint the tarmac or the concrete green.

Response

Thank you for your question. Parking is only authorized in driveways, carports or streets on Fort Huachuca. Areas identified as lawns, yards, grass or seeded areas are prohibited from vehicle parking.

Parking vehicles on prohibited areas adds to the general disarray of the housing areas as well as making it more difficult to grow grass for future residents. In addition, when gas, oil or other hazardous materials leak from vehicles it contaminates the soil. This increases costs for clean up that is paid by the soldiers. Clean up of these materials on concrete or black top is less expensive and easier to remove.

Your concern about having any grass for yards or lawns has been discussed at all levels of the command. It has been concluded, however, that yards that are maintained within the guidance of the Fort Huachuca watering policy will not have an adverse impact on the availability, costs or mission of the installation.

Your suggestion of paving all lawns areas or painting tarmac or concrete green is not financially feasible or practical. Doing so would result in substantially increased temperatures in and around the housing units, cause severe drainage and potential flood problems and deny children of the community a safer more comfortable place to play.

Grace White
Chief, Family Housing

Korea 50 years ago this week

By Jim Caldwell
TRADOC News Service

July 6-12

Newly arrived 24th Infantry Division troops are thrown against advancing North Korean forces. Outnumbered and outgunned, they are only able to slow down the communists.

— An unidentified officer was quoted July 12, "You don't fight two tank-equipped divisions with .30 caliber carbines. I never saw such a useless damned war in all my life."

July 7

President Truman authorizes the Department of Defense to draft young men in the nation's build-up for the Korean War.

— Truman also asks Congress for \$260 million to build hydrogen bombs and other nuclear weapons.

July 7-9

The UN Security Council requests the United States to be its executive to form a UN Command to oversee military operations in Japan. Two days later Truman names Gen. Douglas MacArthur to lead the UN Command.

July 7-12

Politicians and pundits begin laying blame for the unexpected North Korean invasion, as well as the poor state of readiness of both South Korean and American forces.

July 9-12

On July 9 Pyongyang radio broadcasts a statement by

an American identified as Capt. Ambrose H. Nugent of Merrill, Wis. In a voice described as "tired and listless," Merrill urges U.S. troops to desert and accuses "America and Wall Street" of "aggression" in Korea.

— In a counterattack that temporarily regained some lost ground, Americans found the bodies of seven fellow soldiers who had been bound and shot in the head.

— On July 12, a spokesman at MacArthur's headquarters in Tokyo said the U.S. had photos of four executed American soldiers. He said North Korea would be held responsible for these atrocities.

July 12

Col. Robert R. Martin, 48, Toledo, Ohio, is posthumously awarded the first Distinguished Service Cross given for Korean action. He was killed July 8 while attacking a North Korean tank 12 yards away with a bazooka.

Know how to stay safe during monsoon season

Provided by George Flora
Safety Division, DPS

The potential for a flash flood in Arizona exists, especially during the annual monsoon season. The following are some things to be aware of:

When a Flash Flood Watch is issued — be alert to signs of flash flooding and be ready to evacuate on a moment’s notice.

When a Flash Flood Warning is issued for your area, or the moment you realize that a flash flood is imminent, act quickly to save yourself. You may only have seconds.

Go to higher ground — climb to safety.

Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes, etc. Avoid already flooded and high velocity flow areas. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams. If driving, be aware that the roadbed may not be intact under floodwaters. Turn around and go another way. Never drive through flooded roadways.

If the vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. Rapidly rising water may engulf the vehicle and its occupants and sweep them away. Remember, it’s better to be wet than dead.

Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers. Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.

When you receive a Flood Warning

— If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

— Move to a safe area before access is cut off by floodwater.

— Continue monitoring NOAA Weather Radio, television, or emergency broadcast station for information.

During the flood

— Avoid areas subject to sudden flooding.

— If you come upon a flowing stream where water is above your ankles, stop. Turn around and go another way.

— Do not attempt to drive over a flooded road. The depth of water is not always obvious. The roadbed may be washed out under the water, and you could be stranded or trapped.

— Children should never play around high water, storm drains, viaducts, or arroyos.

After the flood

— If fresh food has come in contact with floodwaters, throw it out.

— Boil drinking water before using. Wells should be pumped out and the water tested for purity before drinking. If in doubt, call your local public health authority.

— Seek necessary medical care at the nearest hospital. Food, clothing, shelter, and first aid are available from the Red Cross.

— Do not visit disaster areas. Your presence might hamper rescue and other emergency operations.

— Electrical equipment should be checked and dried before being returned to service.

— Use flashlights, not lanterns, torches or matches, to examine buildings. Flammables may be inside.

— Report broken utility lines to appropriate authorities.

(Editor’s note: Sources for this article include: U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, American Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.)

Test your knowledge with this flash flood quiz

- 1. What causes most flash flooding?**
 - a. Tornadoes.
 - b. Slow-moving thunderstorms, thunderstorms repeatedly moving over the same area, or heavy rains from hurricanes and tropical storms.
 - c. Hailstorms.
- 2. What factors contribute to flooding?**
 - a. Rainfall intensity.
 - b. Rainfall duration.
 - c. BOTH of the above; rainfall intensity and rainfall duration.
- 3. What should you do if you come upon floodwaters?**
 - a. Try to drive through the water.
 - b. Try to swim through the water.
 - c. Stop! Turn around and go another way.
- 4. How many inches of fast-moving floodwater can knock you off your feet?**
 - a. 6 inches
 - b. 8 inches
 - c. 10 inches
- 5. How many feet of fast-moving flood water can sweep a vehicle away?**
 - a. 2 feet
 - b. 3 feet
 - c. 4 feet

Answers:

- 1.** What causes most flash flooding?
 - b. Slow-moving thunderstorms, thunderstorms repeatedly moving over the same area, or heavy rains from hurricanes and tropical storms.
- 2.** What factors contribute to flooding?
 - c. BOTH of the above; rainfall intensity and rainfall duraiton.



- 3.** What should you do if you come upon flood waters?
 - c. Stop! Turn around and go another way.

Additional Information: Never try to walk, swim, or drive through such swift water.
- 4.** How many inches of fast-moving flood water can knock you off your feet?
 - a. 6 inches
- 5.** How many feet of fast-moving flood water can sweep a vehicle away?
 - a. 2 feet

Additional information: If you are in a vehicle and become surrounded by water, if you can get out safely, do so immediately and move to higher ground.

Flashflood safety training

The Installation Safety Office will sponsor three Flash Flooding classes on July 10, from 9 to 10 a.m., 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. Classes will be in Building 31044, the Installation Safety Office classroom, at the corner of Christy and Hungerford. There is plenty of free parking available.

There will be no advanced registration and the classroom will only accommodate 30 people at a time. Plan to come early to be certain of a seat. Once the seats are filled, no more will be allowed into the room, until the next class begins.

The classes will show how flash flooding occurs and why and how you can protect yourself in the event you are caught in a flash flood. For information, call George Flora at 538-2162.

**Be Water
Wise and
Energy
Smart:
Turn off
the
television
when no
one is
watching.**

A black and white line drawing of a person standing next to a television set. The person is reaching out to turn off the TV. The TV screen shows a star.

Community Updates

Pregnancy PT instructor

The Pregnancy PT program sponsored by MEDDAC is seeking to hire a part time aerobics instructor to begin immediately. The hours are 5:55-7 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week.

Instructor is expected to be land and water aerobics certified, and will need to be provide his/her own music and radio equipment.

Interested persons should call Program Coordinator, Pat Marshall, at 533-9995.

DOIM computer classes

The Directorate of Information Management provides computer training classes, with HTML today and Powerpoint on Friday. Basic Structure and Design is set for Monday with Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Access on July 12, 13 and 14 respectfully. Basic and Advanced Excel are set for July 19 and 20 with Outlook on July 24, Word on July 26 and FormFlow on July 28.

For information or to register for a class, call Pfc. Jamie Gert at 533-2868

Fashion show set

A Fashion Show at the Mall is set for Saturday at 2 p.m. The show is free and will feature 11 contestants competing for Miss Sierra Vista Scholarship Pageant 2000. Also featured will be, Colette Beatty, the present Miss Sierra Vista. Marian Rennebaum will emcee.

The Miss Sierra Vista Scholarship Pageant 2000 will be held at the Buena Performing Arts Center on July 29. All seats will be reserved.

Advance tickets can be purchased now at Jim's Glass and Mirror, 81 S. Garden Ave., for \$12. The price of tickets at the door the night of the pageant is \$15. This year's theme is Latin Explosion.

Local reservists wanted

The 6402nd Reserve Training Unit (Intelligence) is located here at Fort Huachuca. This is a points only unit. There are no paid slots or IMA training funds. This unit is open to all ranks with any MOS.

The unit meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first three Tuesdays of the month at Building 31122. The meetings are either seminars on a variety of military subjects or administrative support of your reserve career.

Each meeting provides an opportunity to earn one retirement point. There is also an opportunity to volunteer for various projects to earn additional points.

Even if your civilian job requires a lot of travel that would prevent you from regularly attending the meetings, do not hesitate to call the unit. We may be able to work with you on a special project. We have a carpool from Tucson.

For information, call Maj. Mary

Spellman at 439-4599 or e-mail rayandmary@theriver.com.

Hazmat meeting

The next Hazardous Waste Management Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, at the Safety Office, Building 31044, 8-9 a.m. New and changing environmental issues will be covered in this meeting.

For information, call Becky Lenhardt at 533-0547.

Weight control class

Active Duty Weight Control Classes (AR 600-9) are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. and the third Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. at the Raymond W. Bliss Health Center. However, only one class will be offered in July and that will be July 19 at 4 p.m. Classes are offered on a walk-in basis.

For information, call 1st Lt. Ronna Winn, Registered Dietitian, at 533-5133.

OCS board convenes

The next installation OCS Interview Board is scheduled to convene July 19-21 at the Murr Community Center in the Roadrunner Conference Room at 9 a.m. daily. The deadline date for applications to be received by the Adjutant General Directorate is July 10.

All applications must be in an original and two copies to the Personnel Operations Division, Building 41421 (ATTN: ATZS-AGO). Do not send applications through distribution.

For information, call is Master Sgt. Obeso or Sgt. Newell at 533-1707 or 533-1705.

'Emperor's Clothes' opens

The Bisbee Repertory Theatre presents the Theater for Young Actors production of "The Emperor's New Clothes" opening July 14 at 7:30 p.m. with performances on July 15 at 7:30 p.m. and July 16 at 3 p.m. Tickets for everyone are \$5. The theatre is located at 94 Main Street.

For information, call 432-3786.

Parent University presenters

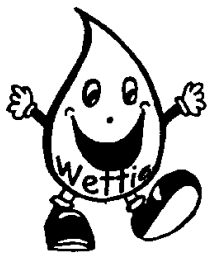
The Fort Huachuca Family Advocacy Program and Army Community Service is once again planning Parent University, set for Sept. 11-22. We are seeking a list of possible presenters and topics for this community-side event.

If you are interested in being a presenter or know someone who is, call Shirley Pettaway at 533-6878 by July 17.

Investment info seminar

The Special Emphasis Program Committee is sponsoring an Investment Information Seminar presented by Jeff Lane, Investment Representative, of Edward Jones.

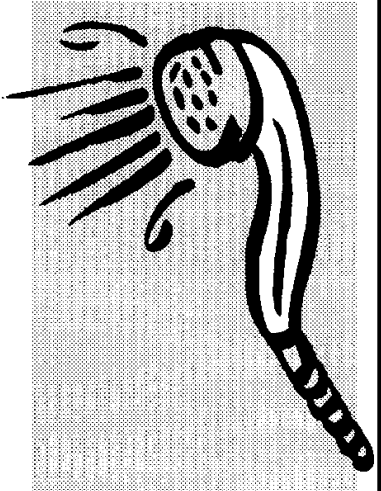
This seminar will cover the many dif-



Wettie sez...

BE *Water Wise!*

Fix drips. A slow steady drip can waste 15-20 gallons each day, a faster drip 100 gallons!



Be Water Wise and Energy Smart!

Fort Huachuca - 538-SAVE

ferent types of investments available, including Maximizing CD Income, Reducing Taxes, Setting Financial Goals, Tax-Free Investments, IRAs, Mutual Funds, Keeping Up With Inflation, Picking Quality Common Stocks, Dow and Nasdaq and S&P 500, Estate Planning, Investing for College Education, and Tax-Deferred Annuities.

This is a great opportunity to become more aware of the many different options of planning for retirement. The seminar will be July 20, 9-11 a.m., at the Quality Training Center, Building 22420 (Next to the Military Clothing Sales Store). Civilian and military personnel are invited to attend.

Seating is limited; call Joan Street, SEPM, at 538-0276 to reserve a seat.

Promotion board convenes

Department of the Army Promotion Selection Board is scheduled to convene Aug. 1 to consider Army Competitive Category lieutenant colonel for promotion to colonel. The colonel board will not consider serving lieutenant colonels of the Chaplain's Corps, Judge Advocate General's Corps or Army Medical Department, Veterinary Corps.

Officers eligible for consideration have active duty dates of rank: above the zone, May 1, 1995 and earlier; promotion zone, May 2, 1995 through Aug. 1, 1996; below the zone, Aug. 2, 1996 through Aug. 1, 1997.

In order to be eligible for consideration by the board, all mandatory or optional Officer Evaluation Reports must be received,

error free, in the Evaluation Reports Branch, PERSCOM (TAPC-MSE-R), no later than July 25. Exceptions are governed by para 1-33d, AR 600-8-29. Only original evaluation reports will be processed. Machine reproduced or electronically transmitted copies will not be accepted.

For information, call Margarethe Velazquez at 533-3267.

4th U.S. Cavalry recruits

Ride with the U.S. Cavalry. Cavalry troopers with the dash, discipline and daring to preserve and promote the traditions of the B Troop 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment are needed. Membership is voluntary and open to male permanent party soldiers, retirees and DoD civilians. Call Staff Sgt. Chris Ehney at 538-6063 or e-mail ehneyc@huachuca-emhl.army.mil. Females may volunteer for the Ladies Auxiliary. Ground School meets at 5 p.m. every Thursday at the Private Stables of Buffalo Corral. For information, visit the troop website at <http://huachuca-www.army.mil/USAG/BTROOP/BTROOP.HTM>.

SAT/ACT testing

The Buffalo Soldier Education Center administers the Scholastic Aptitude Test and the American College Testing Assessment. These tests are available to active duty and Reserve component personnel only. The SAT and ACT scores are used as a college admission requirement and for student placement.

For information, call the Education Center at 533-3010/2255.

TRICARE explains making DEERS address changes

TRICARE release

There are several ways you can change your address in the Defense

Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database.

Online changes may be made at <https://www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERSAddress/>

Any information you submit is insecure and could be observed by a third party while in transit (from you to the web site). If you are submitting information you would like to keep private, it would be safer for you to use one of the address change options listed below.

Address change requests may be submitted through the nearest military base/post personnel office.

Address changes may also be made by calling the DEERS Support Office at one of its toll-free numbers:

- 1-800-334-4162 (California only)
- 1-800-527-5602 (Alaska and Hawaii)
- 1-800-538-9552 (all other states)

To avoid delays, the best time to call the DEERS Support Office is

9 a.m.-3 p.m., Pacific Time, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday.

Address changes may be faxed to (831) 655-8317.

TRICARE_Help e-mail answers questions

TRICARE release

A few months ago, it was announced that the TRICARE_Help Electronic Mail System (THEMS) was available to provide TRICARE related assistance to active duty and retired TRICARE beneficiaries of all military services, Coast Guard, National Guard, Reserves, etc., and their families. THEMS allows all TRICARE beneficiaries to use E-mail to get TRICARE related issues acted on and resolved in a timely manner.

TRICARE_News mailing list membership has increased significantly since the initial announcement was made. The officer in charge of THEMS has asked that information be distributed again to reinforce the message that TRICARE_Help stands ready, willing, and able to assist all TRICARE beneficiaries in resolving all related issues. Recent computer upgrades and the hiring of additional personnel enable the held line to serve its beneficiaries even better than before.

Note: THEMS is not intended to replace or bypass TRICARE Service Centers and other local TRICARE assistance sources. However, if local assistance is not readily available, THEMS is ready to assist.

The E-mail address to use to contact TRICARE_Help is: TRICARE_Help@amedd.army.mil.

What is TRICARE e-mail help?

TRICARE e-mail help is the Army's free service designed to get you quick answers to any TRICARE question. Whether you are looking for basic TRICARE information or have a more difficult issue involving TRICARE, there is one address where people are standing by to as-

sist you. (We do not answer medical questions; please refer these to your health care provider.)

Note: Although THEMS is managed by the Army, it is available to all services, national guard, reserves, etc.

Who will answer my mail?

You will receive an initial response from our professional administrative staff within one (1) business day. This initial response will let you know which TRICARE expert has been assigned to help answer your question. Our TRICARE experts work at Army hospitals, the TRICARE Management Activity, at our corporate headquarters, and for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs. If it has to do with TRICARE, we have the people who can answer your question. No matter what part of TRICARE your e-mail pertains to, we will keep your personal information confidential.

How does the system work?

Our e-mail help system uses the speed and efficiency of the Internet to send your inquiry directly to our TRICARE e-mail Help staff center. Once it arrives there, our professional administrative staff consults their list of TRICARE experts and forwards your mail to the expert who is responsible for your concern. We track each and every piece of mail to make sure all mail is answered quickly and professionally.

Our experts respond directly to you! If you have additional questions or need more help, they are only a click away. Each inquiry and response is filed so that you can always write to us again and ask for more help on the same issue.

Scouts repair bridges, clear trails at Pictograph sites

*By Colleen Andersen
Special to The Scout*

Nathan Andersen, 14, a member of Boy Scout Troop 431, sponsored by Fort Huachuca's Youth Activities, recently completed his Eagle Scout project.

On a 17-mile practice hike for the Bataan Death March with his Troop, Andersen notice how bad the bridges at the Pictograph sites looked and that they were in a state of disrepair. After contacting the post archeologist, Charles Slaymaker, Andersen found out that there was an upcoming Native American conference. Representatives from the Indian community were coming to inspect the site and Slaymaker wanted the site to look its best.

Andersen, along with a group of volunteers cleared trails, picked up trash, repaired stairs, replaced boards, reinforced both bridges, and painted them. After many hours of planning and coordinating, the Eagle Scout project itself, only took about six hours to complete.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest in the Boy Scouts of America program. According to the Boy Scouts of America headquarters in Dallas, Texas, only one out of every 100 Boy Scouts achieves the rank of Eagle Scout.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, the individual Scout must first earn 21 merit badges of which 11 are required, hold a leadership position in his Troop and continue to be active in the Boy Scout program. Andersen has earned 27 merit badges to date and has two required badges to earn before he qualifies for the Eagle Scout award.

As a Boy Scout he has held many leadership positions such as Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader and is currently holding the position of Troop Librarian.

Andersen will be a freshman at Buena High School in the fall. He joined the BSA program at age seven while living at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. He has earned many awards in the Boy Scouts to include the Religious Award, Conservation Award both as a Cub Scout and Boy Scout,

and the Cub Scout's highest award, the Arrow of Light. He is also a member of the Boy Scout's Order of the Arrow.

Andersen is the son of Jeff and Colleen Andersen of Fort Huachuca and has a younger sister, Nicki Andersen.

Andersen said he would like to thank everyone who helped him with this project and knows the community will enjoy the improved Pictograph sites.

He gives special thanks to his Mom "who got me started on my project," his father for helping with supplies, Slaymaker, post archeologist, Marta Johnson and staff, Blimpie Subs, Safeway, Youth Services, Christa Hancock, Electronic Proving Ground, Kim at Wildlife Management, and the following Boy Scouts of 431: Ed Abbott, Scott Abbott, Steven Schultz, Roland Tyler, Matt Miller and Logan Miller.

Thanks are also given to the Boy Scouts of Troop 432: Gabriel Brewer, Rome Fedewa, Ernie Fedewa, Alex Laszok, Austin Allshouse, Joshua Wallace, Brenton Castanares, Joseph Brewer, Don Castanares, Judy Castanares and Trevor Castanares for their involvement in the Eagle Project.



Courtesy photos

A group of Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 431 and volunteers cleared trails, picked up trash, repaired stairs, replaced boards, reinforced both bridges, and painted them. After many hours of planning and coordinating, the Eagle Scout project itself, only took about six hours to complete.

Grecian Firebolt '00

ASC sponsors largest com



Spc. David Ostrum (right), Track 170 team chief, 11th Signal Brigade, Company C, 40th Signal Battalion, talks with Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Paylor, Army Signal Command's top enlisted soldier about his section's role in Grecian Firebolt 2000 at Fort Bliss, Texas.

**Story and photos by Sgt. 1st Class Anthony L. Reed
ASC PAO NCOIC**

Grecian Firebolt 2000, the largest signal communications exercise in the U.S. Army, was commanded by subordinate units belonging to U.S. Army Signal Command June 3-25.

According to Robert Fulbright, ASC logistics (G-3) chief, Exercise Branch, the exercise is designed to refine the integration and interoperability among active component, reserve and National Guard units.

Grecian Firebolt also integrates the use of current and newly developed generations of equipment, including commercial items, to ensure all services and Army components are familiar with procedures which may be necessary in order to successfully work together during wartime, he added.

The 335th Theater Signal Command is the executive agent for the exercise. In this capacity, the 335th commanded and controlled four brigades consisting of more than 3,700 active, reserve and National Guard soldiers.

The unit also provided the overall communications network management for communication systems stretching more than 28 states, according to Fulbright. This communications network, in conjunction with Grecian Firebolt '00, supported nationwide exercises including Golden Cargo (19th Theater Army), an ammunition transportation exercise; Golden Coyote (420th Engineer Brigade), an engineering mobilization exercise; Golden Medic (3rd Medical Command), a wartime simulation exercise; and Polex (475th Quartermaster Group), a fuel and water transportation exercise.

"This exercise was a huge success," said Lt. Col. Emanuel Hampton, ASC G-3 chief, Exercise & Training Division. "Grecian Firebolt 2000 was the largest multi-component C4 (command, control, communications and computer) exercise in the Army."

Using a multi-component force of two active units (11th Signal Brigade, and 93rd Signal Brigade, Fort Gordon, Ga.), an Army Reserve unit (359th Signal Brigade, Fort Gordon, Ga.) and a National Guard unit (228th Signal Brigade, Spartanburg, S.C.), Grecian Firebolt '00 served as the epitome of the "One Army, One Team" concept.

"After working with the reserves and guard, I have an even greater respect for the things they do part-time that we do full-time," said 1st Lt. Nick J. Logan, Company B, 86th Signal Battalion, 11th Sig. Bde., whose unit was deployed to Camp Park, Calif.

"It was a nice blend of active, reserve and guard soldiers," said Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Paylor, ASC's top enlisted soldier. "It was actually transparent on most sites as I talked to soldiers as they performed their duties. We all wear the same uniform and perform the same excellent duties."

According to Fulbright, the units participating in Grecian Firebolt '00 took pride not only in the type of services they provided, but also in the quality communication services provided to customers. These services included Non-Secure Internet Protocol Routing Network, which provides a non-secure data communications network for intra- and inter-theater requirements; Secure Internet Protocol Routing Network, which provides a secure data communications network for intra- and inter-theater requirements; Tactical Packet Network, which provides a tactical data communications network for intra- and inter-theater requirements; and Videoteleconference, used to provide daily brief-

Communication exercise in U.S.

ings on the exercise.

“This exercise was an excellent opportunity for me to get valuable experience on some of the newest systems in the Army,” said Staff Sgt. Maceo Black, technical controller, 228th Sig. Bde., whose unit was based at Fort A.P. Hill, Va. for Grecian Firebolt ’00.

“It was nice working with soldiers from other units,” said Spc. Joseph Dively, special circuits briefer, 67th Sig. Bn., 11th Sig. Bde., whose unit was based at Fort Story, Va. for the exercise. “We learned a great deal from each other.”

Grecian Firebolt ’00 proved to be the catalyst for the new multi-component force. One Army, One Team.

(Editor’s note: Covering Grecian Firebolt ’00, Sgt. 1st Class Anthony L. Reed, Army Signal Command Public Affairs NCOIC, recently traveled to various sites, including Camp Park, Calif., Fort Bliss, Texas, Fort Eustis, Va., Fort Story, Va., and Fort A.P. Hill, Va.)



Soldiers from the 3rd Medical Command, Fort McCoy, Wis., make preparations for set up of a 72-bed hospital at the Camp Park, Calif. site.



Spc. Robert Anderson, switch operator, 11th Signal Brigade, Company C, 40th Signal Battalion, checks his J-1077 4-wire telephone junction box system at Fort Bliss, Texas.



With deployment ships in the background, the 93rd Signal Brigade’s sattelite scans the area of Fort Eustis, Va.



Soldiers from 93rd Signal Brigade line up to make morale calls from Fort Eustis, Va.

Hourly childcare is now available in a home setting

By Kelly Figula
Scout Intern

The post Family Child Care program introduced an hourly child care service on June 28 that combines the personal attention of a family care provider home with the number of playmates children find at the child development center.

“You get the same advantages of the child care center in a home setting,” said Judith Stevenson, Child and Youth Services coordinator.

“There was a demand for hourly care for younger children under 18 months,” Stevenson said.

The home offers parents one-stop childcare their children from ages 6 months to 12 years old. Parents pay \$2.20 per hour for the first child and \$2.00 per hour for each additional child in the same family. Walk-ins are welcome on a space-available basis.

Mary Jane LaValley, the Family Child Care coordinator, said, “If someone has an 18-month-old and a three-year-old, they can be put in the same place.”

“We have the opportunity to increase the amount of child care on post, and the opportunity to use empty housing,” Stevenson said. The one-family house FCC is using for the group home is at 166 Hughes and has passed fire, health and safety inspections.

Two family care providers work in the home for up to 12 children each hour from 5:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The providers in the group home pass the same two-week training course as family care providers, which covers topics from child development to business issues. Providers also must be trained in CPR and first aid.

“The training results in a good program with providers

who can react well in all situations,” Stevenson said.

The group home is well equipped with toys, and is located near a community park.

“There’s a lot of toys,” said Gabby Joslin, a 4-year-old visitor to the group home, who was dressed like a clown as she played with large plastic bugs.

The Family Resource Library and the child care providers provide many of the toys and books used at the facility.

The home develops a calendar of activities, which includes trips to the duck pond and story time. The home also provides children with USDA approved meals and snacks, such as fruit and bagels for breakfast and turkey for lunch.

The group home offers Sherrie Russ, a FCC provider for five years, the opportunity to care for other children while spending time with her own children during the day.

“It helps me raise my children well while I’m helping parents who cannot care for their children during the day,” she said.

Since children stay in the home on an hourly basis, the home will rarely reach its full capacity, Stevenson said. Because of this, the installation is subsidizing part of the cost to operate the facility.

To make reservations parents can call the group home at 507-6772. Reservations have a two-hour minimum, and can be made up to one month in advance.

(At right) Gabby Joslin, 4, enjoys drawing on the chalkboard at the post Family Child Care Group Home, a new childcare facility that combines the strengths of a FCC home and the Child Development Center.



Photo by Kelly Figula

DoD child care cited as model for nation

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — When it comes to child care, military families have the best America has to offer, according to a study by the National Women’s Law Center here.

Nancy Duff Campbell, group co-director, presented the report to Defense Secretary William S. Cohen here May 16 and cited DoD’s child development program for its quality, affordability and availability.

The report, “Be All That We Can Be: Lessons From the Military for Improving Our Nation’s Child Care System,” shows how the military transformed a “seriously deficient” child care system into a national model for child care reform, Campbell said at a Pentagon press conference.

Sens. Chris Dodd of Connecticut and Jim Jeffords of Vermont also attended the briefing and echoed Campbell’s praise. They stressed the need for child care reform in the civilian community, where hundreds of thousands of families are on waiting lists.

Dodd, who hailed the military program as the nation’s “gold standard,” said people can’t be expected to function well in any endeavor if they’re worried about their children. Jeffords pointed out that absenteeism caused by poor quality child care costs American business more than \$3 billion a year. Both salute the military’s 10-year effort to provide quality care.

“Just a decade ago,” Campbell said,

“child care in the military was plagued by problems that are all too familiar to civilian families today. Tens of thousands of children were on waiting lists for care. Military families could not afford care even if they could find it. Caregivers lacked training and were so poorly compensated that they didn’t stay long in the field, and the quality of care suffered.”

Because the lack of child care affected recruiting, retention and readiness, the military committed the necessary resources and built a system that links child care centers, family child care homes, after-school programs and resource and referral services. The program currently meets 58 percent of military families’ child care need, Campbell said, and the department is moving steadily towards its goal of meeting 80 percent of the need by 2005.

Cohen, who as a senator voted for the Military Child Care Act of 1989, acknowledged that Pentagon policymakers and military commanders alike have made child care a priority. He said DoD now offers about 200,000 children “comprehensive, credible and consistent” care.

“Where our force once was largely comprised of single men, today nearly half of our men and women in uniform are also fathers and mothers,” he said. “We simply can’t afford to have our service members worried about the basic well-being of their families.”

Contrasting child care in military and civilian communities, Campbell called on state and federal lawmakers to learn from the military’s success.

“The need is no less great, no less urgent, no less compelling for such a commitment outside the military,” she said. “More than 95 percent of the military child development centers are accredited by outside experts, compared to only 8 percent of civilian child care centers. Today, all children in military child care centers are cared for by staff who receive basic pre-service training, unlike the children in 31 states whose laws and regulations require no such training.”

Campbell noted that the Defense Department has also addressed affordability, with subsidies and sliding fee schedules based on family income. “As a result, the average weekly fee paid by military families is some 25 percent lower than the average weekly fee paid by civilian families for comparable center-based care,” she said.

Military facilities pay better than civilian counterparts, she added. The entry level wage for caregivers at military centers is nearly \$8 an hour and increases to \$10 after core competency training. The average wage for a civilian caregiver is only \$7.40 an hour — a civilian provider in a family child care home earns only \$4.70 an hour.

“It’s time, indeed, past time, for the civilian sector to catch up,” Campbell said.

With 70 percent of women with children now in the labor force, demand for civilian child care is at an all-time high. Yet too often, it’s unaffordable or simply unavailable.

“The military’s experience teaches us that it doesn’t have to be this way,” she stressed. DoD has shown the quality of care can be raised by setting comprehensive standards and enforcing them with unannounced inspections, increasing provider training and pay, and helping providers meet the standards required by outside accreditation.

The National Women’s Law Center report highlights six lessons civilian officials can glean from the transformation of DoD’s child care system:

— Do not be daunted by the task. It is possible to take a woefully inadequate child care system and dramatically improve it.

— Recognize and acknowledge the seriousness of the child care problem and the consequences of inaction.

— Improve quality by establishing and enforcing comprehensive standards, assisting providers in becoming accredited and enhancing provider compensation and training.

— Keep child care fees affordable through subsidies.

— Expand the availability of all kinds of care by continually assessing unmet needs and taking steps to address them.

— Commit the resources necessary to get the job done.

Fort Huachuca Bloodhound draws on concern for others

By Jim Ward
ISEC

Don't ask her how or why she does it. Just take her word for it. That's the reaction one gets when he asks Katharina Criscuolo, of the Information Systems Engineering Command, what makes her tick.

"I've always cared about people," is about as close to a confession as she gets.

Criscuolo, originally from Bamberg, Germany, has been working at ISEC since 1996, when she took a position as a management support assistant, in the Information Systems Engineering Directorate. Since that time, she's picked up duties as the building fire marshal, the information systems security officer, the assistant security manager, and the training coordinator, just to name a few.

All of these on top of her job as Fort Huachuca's top "Bloodhound." "I donated blood at a Sierra Vista blood drive a few years back. I thought it was a really good idea and asked the Red Cross for help in setting one

up for ISEC." Little did she know that a few years later she'd be the talk of the installation when it comes to collecting much-needed blood.

So how does she do it? Criscuolo says it takes the approval of folks like Mr. Jack Ainsworth, tremendous support from the Tucson-based American Red Cross and a lot of old-fashioned hard work.

"The day of the blood drive, I can expect to work for about 15 hours. The good thing is that over the years, I've learned a lot about being a coordinator and anticipate what we have to do," she said.

This means scheduling up to 120 appointments so that the donors can simply show up at the site, go through screening and move

through the process as painlessly as possible. "The appointments system makes a big difference," she says.

Speaking of painless, Criscuolo also goes the extra mile in that she literally holds the first-timers' hands if encouragement is called for. "For the first-time blood donor, the thought of a needle in the arm and giving a pint of blood can be a little unnerving. I try to help them relax, and think about anything other than donating blood during the 40 minutes or so they are on the site. Once they're through it the first time, they are over the hump, and probably will be all right the next time," she said.

Criscuolo knows that the ISEC program is the most successful on post, and that there

might be a little "friendly" competition. This doesn't worry her, because it means that donations at all sites at Fort Huachuca will get better as the years go by. "We try to make the time a fun and enjoyable one, with prizes and really great snacks. That makes a lot of sense to us," she said.

When not working her "regular" job, Criscuolo can be found at Cochise College earning her Associate's degree in Psychology, as a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, or writing poetry. Her husband, Peter, also with ISEC, is a member of the famed B Troop, 4th Cavalry (Memorial), which makes her an unofficial member.

She is also planning the next blood drive. "It takes a lot of prior coordination to pull these events off. For those who don't know, the next blood drive for ISEC is [Friday], exactly 56 days from the last one. So...if you want to donate on that day, it's not too early to get your reservation in. We can use the blood, and what you do will help give a needy patient the chance at life that is so critical."

“For the first-time blood donor, the thought of a needle in the arm and giving a pint of blood can be a little unnerving. I try to help them relax.”

Katharina Criscuolo

Army recruiting efforts reflect 25 years of ‘ups and downs’

By Gerry J. Gilmore
Army News Service

WASHINGTON - Since the end of the draft more than 25 years ago, prevailing economic conditions and other factors have produced pendulum-like swings in Army recruiting efforts.

With the emergence of the All-Volunteer Army in 1973, and the "Be All You Can Be" recruiting campaign of the 1980s, the possession of a high school diploma and above-average Armed Forces Qualification Test scores have been used as yardsticks of quality for initial enlistees said Lt. Col. Stephen Walker, an enlisted accessions officer who works in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

Studies show that enlistees who possess a high school diploma are more likely to complete their initial term of military service than are non-high school graduates, said Walker. Other indicators of recruit quality include above-average scores on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery tests that determine enlistment eligibility and aptitude for specific military jobs. The Armed Forces Qualification Test is a compilation of scores from the math and verbal portions of the ASVAB test, which is also used to determine enlistment eligibility and placement in jobs.

Additionally, a separate Assessment of Individual Motivation test designed by the Army Research Institute is used to measure an applicant's motivation to serve in the armed forces. Early trials of AIM test results show a high correlation between AIM test scores and attrition, officials said.

The early Volunteer Army of 25 years ago was able to fill its ranks, said Walker, partly because of a large "Baby Boomer" enlistment-aged population. However, Volunteer Army enlistment began to falter in the late 70s, and the Army adjusted its enlistment standards downward to gain

recruits. At the same time, Army pay was being outpaced by inflation in the booming civilian economy at the time, and defense budget cuts in the post-Vietnam War force caused supply and parts shortages, lowered morale and brought an exodus of soldiers.

The 1982 recession, "catch-up" military pay raises in the early 80s, and increased emphasis on recruiting - personified by the "Be All You Can Be" campaign - combined to boost recruiting numbers throughout the remainder of the decade. The Army also increased its enlistment quality criteria.

“A review of DCSPER statistics shows that in 1979 ... the Army enlisted 159,000 active-duty soldiers ... almost 40,000 didn't have high school diplomas, and 46 percent scored on the lowest scale of the AFQT. During the zenith of "Be All You Can Be" in 1989, the Army enlisted 119,000 soldiers ... only 4,200 didn't have high school diplomas, and only 7 percent scored lowest on the AFQT scale.”

A review of DCSPER statistics shows that in 1979, during the so-called "Hollow Army," the Army enlisted 159,000 active-duty soldiers of which almost 40,000 didn't have high school diplomas, and 46 percent scored on the lowest scale (Category IV) of the AFQT.

During the zenith of "Be All You Can Be" in 1989, the Army enlisted 119,000 soldiers of whom only 4,200 didn't have high school diplomas, and 7 percent scored lowest on the AFQT scale.

In 1999, the Army has about 480,000 active-duty soldiers, of whom 400,000 are enlisted, said Walker.

A year ago, the Army enlisted almost 72,000 active-duty soldiers. Of these, only one soldier didn't have a high

During the 1989-1996 drawdown, the Army was able to insist on enlisting only the most-qualified applicants - meaning applicants who scored in the upper half of the AFQT and possessed at least a high school diploma, said Walker. The end of the Cold War required the Army to reduce its active force - including officers and enlisted soldiers - from 780,000 in 1987 to less than 500,000 in 1996. Army recruiters could afford to be selective, since most of the people leaving the Army at the time didn't need to be replaced on a "one-for-one" basis.

school degree, and just 2 percent scored lowest on the AFQT scale.

The statute that requires the armed forces to contain at least 90 percent high school diploma graduates was actually surpassed by the Army through 1996, he said, when the Army required 95 percent of its enlisted to have a high school diploma. Statistically, the Army's enlisted force contained 75 percent high school diploma graduates in 1979; 90 percent in 1989; and 93 percent in 1998.

However, the drawdown has been over for three years, and all of the service branches - except the Marine Corps - are now having difficulty meeting their enlisted recruiting quotas. The Army and the other armed services are now required to replace departing soldiers one-for-one to maintain a "steady-state" force.

In fiscal year 1998, the Army had a recruiting shortfall of almost 800 soldiers. For fiscal year 1999, that number had grown to over 6,200. "The Army will be challenged to meet its FY00 accession mission of 80,000," said Walker.

In recent years, the Army and the other armed services have fished a shrinking demographic pool of prime-age 18-to-24-year-old youth to fill their junior enlisted ranks, said Walker. Today's young people of recruiting age have several options other than military service. The current booming economy is providing abundant entry-level jobs that don't require more than a high school education.

State, federal and institutional college grants and scholarship monies are readily available today, said Walker, and young high school graduates with limited resources have multiple options to go to college or technical school.

It may not be a surprise, then, to discover that recent national surveys show that young people are less inclined to join the military than in years past, said Walker.

The Army has recently put more money into its recruiting mission, and has added more recruiters to meet the challenge, said Walker, but that pool of young people of prime age for military service that do not go directly to college from high school is projected to remain shallow.

Therefore, recruiting markets must be expanded in a careful manner while jealously guarding the quality of the force, said Walker.